

GIL GUTKNECHT
1ST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

gil@mail.house.gov
www.gil.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT,
NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

SCIENCE
VICE CHAIRMAN

BUDGET

May 26, 2005

Dear Friends:

Greetings and good evening. Unfortunately, I am in Washington this evening and unable to join you for the Lewis & Clark 15th Annual Membership Banquet.

As work on the pipeline continues to progress, we in Congress are doing all we can to ensure this important project receives the taxpayer dollars it needs to move forward. Recently, we learned this year's initial appropriation for Lewis & Clark fell short at just \$7.5 million. However, just last week, I drafted a letter and personally spoke with U.S. Rep. Dave Hobson, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, urging inclusion of additional resources for the project. I am very appreciative of the effort put in by my colleagues Stephanie Herseth and Steve King. They have been strong advocates for this project in Congress. Chairman Hobson subsequently added an additional \$7.5 million for the Lewis & Clark Project - providing a total of \$15 million for the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System for FY2006.

As many of you may remember, I brought Chairman Hobson to Sioux Falls last May to discuss the Lewis and Clark project. He was very impressed with the collaborative effort of the Minnesotans, South Dakotans and Iowans who will benefit from this project. He said that, while he could not make any promises, this project is worthwhile and will get serious attention during the appropriations process. In a very tight budget cycle, we were pleased Chairman Hobson responded to our request for additional taxpayer dollars.

For a project as important as Lewis & Clark, the rewards far outweigh the costs. In supplying drinking water to 200,000 residents in 22 communities and water districts in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa, this project is not only necessary, but it is critical to the economic development of the entire region.

As I've said many times before, safe drinking water is a necessity - not a luxury. It's been proven time and time again this project protects the environment at an affordable cost to users - not only for our citizens, but also for the industries in our communities.

I congratulate Troy Larson and the rest of the Lewis & Clark team for continuing to make such impressive strides and working for the continued bi-partisan, multi-state support for this important project.

Thank you for inviting me to attend this year's annual banquet. Again, I regret I am unable to be with you this evening, but I greatly look forward to visiting with you to discuss Lewis & Clark and other important issues impacting our neighborhoods and communities as we forge ahead.

Best wishes,

Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress

HOME OFFICE:
MIDWAY OFFICE PLAZA
1530 GREENVIEW DRIVE SW, SUITE #108
ROCHESTER, MN 55902
(507) 252-9841
(507) 252-9915 FAX
IN MN: 1-800-862-8632 TOLL FREE

109 EAST SECOND STREET
FAIRMONT, MN 56031
(507) 238-2835
(507) 238-1405 FAX

425 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2301
(202) 225-2472
(202) 225-3246 FAX